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Creating and Releasing Open Educational Resources: The OSTRICH OER project at the University of Bath

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OSTRICH

OSTRICH (**OER Sustainability through Teaching & Research Innovation: Cascading across HEIs**) is a year-long project led by the Beyond Distance Research Alliance at the University of Leicester.

The project will explore the transfer and cascade of the key outcomes of a previous University of Leicester OER pilot project (OTTER) to two partner institutions (University of Bath and University of Derby).

Objectives

The aims of the OSTRICH project at the University of Bath are to:

- Promote awareness of the benefits of Open Educational Resources (OERs)
- Clarify legal/IPR issues for those who want to create OERs
- Establish good practice for the creation of OER material
- Provide a repository for OER learning and teaching materials
- Foster an active OER Interest Group at the University

JISC



What are Open Educational Resources?

'Digitised materials offered freely and openly for educators, students and self-learners to use and reuse for teaching, learning and research.' (OECD, 2007)

'OERs are educational materials and resources offered freely and openly for anyone to use and under some licenses to re-mix, improve and redistribute.' (Wikipedia)

Learning materials released as OERs can vary in format and content... images, podcasts, course outlines, presentations, websites, entire units of study, standalone learning objects, lecture-capture videos, revision materials, documents.

Why OER?

From an individual perspective:

- Altruistic motivation for sharing based on academic values
- Personal visibility and peer recognition within the academic community
- Potential for collaboration with academics around the world
- Sharing and feedback as a stimulus for innovation

From an institutional perspective:

- Institutional visibility: showcases materials for marketing purposes, enhances University's reputation as a socially responsible institution
- Improved quality of learning materials: OER creation as a stimulus for internal improvement and innovative curriculum development
- Cost of materials is reduced by sharing and repurposing of resources

OER in the UK

OSTRICH is part of the £5million HEFCE-funded Phase 2 Open Educational Resources programme investigating the release, use and discovery of OERs (managed by the Higher Education Academy and JISC).

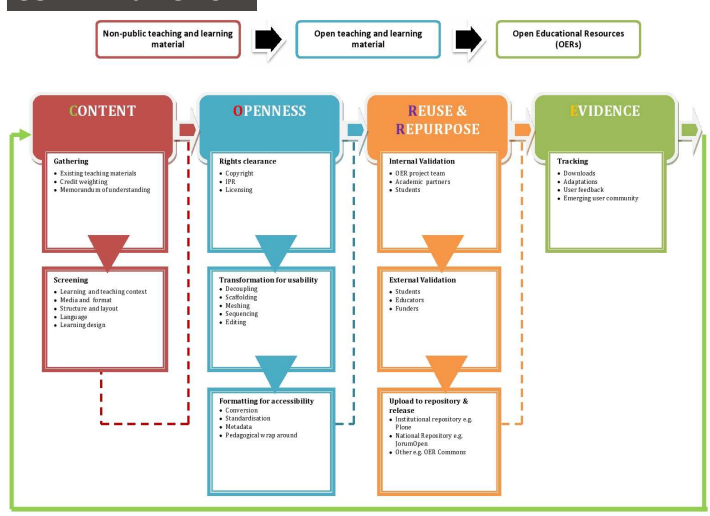
The creation of OERs in the UK is becoming more common, with many institutions releasing their materials for open access: OpenLearn at the Open University, OpenSpares at Oxford, OpenExeter, OpenStaffs.

In the light of these developments, Jorum, the UK national repository for learning and teaching materials, was expanded in 2008 to allow the global sharing of resources under Creative Commons licences in JorumOpen (the National HE OER repository).

Project Outputs

- A **modified version of the CORRE framework** (created by the University of Leicester OTTER project for the creation of new content and conversion of existing materials into OERs, see right) adapted to the University of Bath institutional context
- **Training and support materials and templates** based on knowledge transferred from the University of Leicester OER experience
- An **OSTRICH repository of OERs** at the University of Bath
- The deposit of **100 credits' worth of OERs** in the OSTRICH repository and JorumOpen in the priority areas of: professionalism in education, HE in FE settings, distinct subjects where a low volume of OER exists
- **Draft OER policies and guidelines** adapted to the University of Bath context and following the University of Leicester's OTTER model

CORRE Framework



Contact details

Vic would be happy to meet with you to speak about the OSTRICH project and the use of Open Educational Resources at the University of Bath or to discuss any learning and teaching materials that you might like to release as OERs. Please contact her on 01225 38 5258 or at v.k.jenkins@bath.ac.uk

Find out about the
OSTRICH OER project at:
<http://blogs.bath.ac.uk/oer>

